

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 546

October 27, 1995, 7:21 p.m.
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BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION/Estate Taxes

SUBJECT: Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995 . . . S. 1357. Domenici motion to table the Bradley amendment No. 3031.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 72-27

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1357, the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995, will result in a balanced budget in seven years, as scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The bill will also provide a \$245 billion middle-class tax cut, \$141.4 billion of which will be to provide a \$500 per child tax credit.

The Bradley amendment would strike the estate tax reform provisions for family-owned businesses and farms and would substitute in lieu thereof modifications to the current-law time extension provisions for closely held businesses. (The bill's estate tax reform provisions will lower estate taxes on family-owned businesses and farms by exempting from estate tax the first \$1.5 million in assets and by lowering the estate tax by 50 percent on the next \$3.5 million in assets. A family-owned business will be defined as a business: of which one family has 50-percent ownership; of which two families have 70-percent ownership; or of which three families have 90-percent ownership. The business or farm will have to be equal to at least 50 percent of the value of the whole estate, and the heirs will have to participate in the business or farm for at least 10 years after the decedent's death.)

The Bradley amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. However, by unanimous consent, 1 minute of debate was allowed on the Bradley amendment. Following debate, Senator Domenici moved to table the Bradley amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

The estate tax provisions in this bill for family-owned businesses and farms have strong bipartisan support. For small family farms especially this provision is important. The average age of farmers in America is rising (for example, in Iowa it has reached 62), not because those farmers refuse to pass their farms along to their children, but because the confiscatory Federal Government death tax

(See other side)

YEAS (72)			NAYS (27)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (52 or 98%)	Democrats (20 or 43%)		Republicans (1 or 2%)	Democrats (26 or 57%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Helms	Baucus	Jeffords	Akaka		
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Biden		Boxer		
Bennett	Inhofe	Bingaman		Bradley		
Bond	Kassebaum	Bryan		Breaux		
Brown	Kempthorne	Exon		Bumpers		
Burns	Kyl	Ford		Byrd		
Campbell	Lott	Glenn		Conrad		
Chafee	Lugar	Harkin		Daschle		
Coats	Mack	Heflin		Dodd		
Cochran	McCain	Inouye		Dorgan		
Cohen	McConnell	Johnston		Feingold		
Coverdell	Murkowski	Kerrey		Feinstein		
Craig	Nickles	Kohl		Graham		
D'Amato	Pressler	Lieberman		Hollings		
DeWine	Roth	Murray		Kennedy		
Dole	Santorum	Nunn		Kerry		
Domenici	Shelby	Pell		Lautenberg		
Faircloth	Simpson	Pryor		Leahy		
Frist	Smith	Reid		Levin		
Gorton	Snowe	Simon		Mikulski		
Gramm	Specter			Moseley-Braun		
Grams	Stevens			Moynihan		
Grassley	Thomas			Robb		
Gregg	Thompson			Rockefeller		
Hatch	Thurmond			Sarbanes		
Hatfield	Warner			Wellstone		

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

on their estates makes it impossible for them to hand on their farms. Farms that have been handed down for hundreds of years are being eliminated by this tax. We are certain that a strong bipartisan majority of our colleagues will categorically reject the weak provisions in the Bradley amendment.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

The estate provisions in this bill will lower estate taxes on businesses and farms by \$1.7 million on their first \$5 million in taxes. This is an outrageously large tax deduction that will benefit estates that are worth a great deal more than \$5 million. The Bradley amendment would more carefully target tax relief to those family-owned businesses and farms that are really small. We urge Senators to support this more reasonable amendment.